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Letter dated 24 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the answers of the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) given to the questions raised by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 23 May 2017 with regard to the DPRK's test-launch of the strategic ballistic missile Pukguksong-2 (see annex I), and the service of the Rajin-Vladivostok international tourist liner (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 61, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the letter dated 24 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Answer of the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the questions raised by KCNA on 23 May 2017 with regard to the test-launch of the strategic ballistic missile Pukguksong-2

The officials in the field of national defence science and technology and the workers in the munitions field of the DPRK successfully carried out the test-launch of ground-to-ground medium- to long-range strategic ballistic missile Pukguksong-2 amid continued measures for bolstering the nuclear force of the country.

As reported, the recent launch aimed to finally confirm the technical specifications of the overall weaponry system of the Pukguksong-2 series and fully examine their adaptability to various combat conditions before their deployment for action.

This is part of the normal process for bolstering the military capabilities for self-defence and a process that has to be gone through for deployment.

But the U.S. and its followers again published a Security Council press statement peppered with rhetoric such as "sanctions" and "denunciation".

We flatly reject the press statement taking advantage of the U.S. hostile policy toward the DPRK.

Nothing favourable can be expected from the U.S. and its followers obsessed by inveterate repugnancy and hostility towards the DPRK. But it is absolutely ridiculous to see them finding fault with the DPRK's every measure for self-defence.

The DPRK substantially displayed the capabilities for mounting a nuclear attack at Hawaii, housing the U.S. Pacific forces command and the Pacific operational theatre, including Alaska, and has built full capabilities for attacking the U.S. mainland, the stronghold of aggression.

The U.S. and its followers' despicable act of taking issue with the DPRK's measures for bolstering nuclear force will only result in increasing our hostility to them and furthering the efforts to diversify and modernize our own nuclear force.

Annex II to the letter dated 24 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Answer of the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the questions raised by KCNA on 23 May 2017 with regard to the service of the Rajin-Vladivostok international tourist liner

The Rajin-Vladivostok international tourist liner "Mangyongbong" has recently begun its service.

Its regular operation under an agreement between the DPRK and Russia will be able to contribute to developing bilateral cooperation in such economic fields as sea transport and tourism.

This is normal bilateral cooperation work aimed at expanding the bilateral economic relations and deepening the friendship through humanitarian exchanges and visits.

However, the U.S., running amok to ratchet up sanctions against the DPRK, faulted even the service of the liner, a normal economic cooperation undertaking between the two sovereign States, with mobilization of its vassal forces, in a bid to prevent the DPRK-Russia economic cooperation and suffocate the DPRK through a tightened economic blockade.

Such action is arousing a strong backlash and rejection from Russia as it is an arbitrary practice, seriously encroaching on the legal interests of not only the DPRK, but also of Russia.

No matter what others may say, the DPRK-Russia economic cooperation, including the service of the liner, will steadily develop in keeping with the desire and common interests of the two peoples.